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(Political Communication Study of Reformation in  
Indonesia)

### **ABSTRACT**

This research is political communication study that focus to the political language involving any interpretation and clash of argument to Reformation in Indonesia. The man's capacity to give interpretation reflect the human being's capacity for communication in giving selection, reflection and deflection of reality. Factually, any social problems can be caused of interpretation to the meaning. The quarrel, misperception, misunderstanding, misleading, even conflict as well as war can be caused of interpretation to meaning. Based on this description, the research problem is how the contestation of meaning of Reformation perform in the political dramatism during 1997 to 1998 in Indonesia and how any political actors perform their political communication about Reformation in these political dramatism. This research use Dramatism approach developed by Kenneth Burke who conceive the human being as the symbolical animal which use language (the most important) for his communication driven by motives. Data which is used in this research is Kompas daily during 1997 to 1998 by giving attention to statements as a whole expressed by actors in this contention and is supported and gained through interviews. This research applied the Pentad Analysis that scrutinize the analytic relation among scene, act, agent, agency and purpose. The results point out that there are five objective situations which form the context of Reformation reflecting of the scene or stage where Reformation was contention. First, context of the president election for five year terms 1998-2003 that point out the clash of argument among positions which those who support President Soeharto and deny him. Second, context of student demonstration that point out the contention between those who stop this action and those who enlarge this action to topple New Order regime and President Soeharto. Third, riot and massive destruction that point out the context of contention between actors who conceive it as civil disobedience and social justice. Fourth, economic crisis that show the contention between good governance practices in economic policies in one side and, the other side protectionism, monopoly, crony and corruption. Fifth, armed forces dilemmas between give Reformation moving maturity or take strict and repressive action to sustain the current power. Finally, Presiden Soeharto resigned, New Order was toppled, Dwifungsi ABRI dismissed, UUD 45 was amended, freedom of expression and press was opened, and power was fairly competed. This research seriously implied to politics, history, and communication itself in social movement context.

**Keyword:** Contestation, Reformation, Meaning and Dramatism